ONE PAGE OF HISTORY

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec

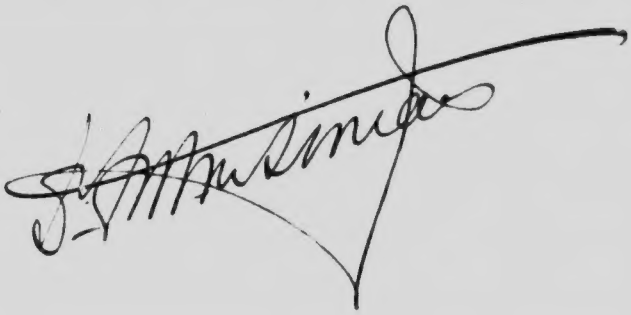
1914-1918

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

BY

Dr Arthur Simard

MONTREAL, JULY 1918



President's address

1914-1918.

Gentlemen Governors:—

It is my duty, at the end of this term, to summarize the different acts of the present Board. Allow me to recall each briefly.

A GLANCE AT THE PAST

In 1914, we replaced a most progressive Board. The said Board, under the able direction of Dr. Normand, had, from its very beginning, to face a deficit and to study and apply a new legislation of which very few members knew the working and the scope.

In 1914, we began our term with reduced revenue as the fifth University year had been suppressed, and with the moral obligation to apply again to the Legislature to amend once more our charter and seek new privileges. The task was so much the more arduous since our experience in 1909 had been har costly.

(The legislation of 1909 cost the Board $6,000 and the 1910 By-laws over -1,200).

Apart from the financial standpoint, secondary after all, the question was, in order to improve the administration, to reform the Board in reducing the number of Governors, and to make to the Legislature certain demands the results of which were very uncertain.

I need not recall the discussing of our drafted By-

laws. I will only recite the main clauses of the law sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council on February 19th, 1918,—which was the result of our common efforts from 1911 to 1918.

BRIEF RESUME OF THE 1918 LEGISLATION

1.—The number of Governors is reduced from 41 to 21.

2.—One annual meeting only shall be held.

3.—The acts contrary to professional honor, instead of being specified in the law, shall be defined by the By-laws of the Board. The Board will thus be enabled to study each particular case. This will allow us to take proceedings against those who always find a way to evade the law.

4.—We are empowered to establish a pension and aid fund, the revenues of which to be served to doctors in need. The said fund will be constituted by half of the surplus of the ordinary receipts over the expenses, as certified by the Auditor's report.

5.—The Board is authorized to pay the expenses incurred by lectures delivered before Medical Societies by doctors chosen by the President or by the Executive Committee.

6.—In order to comply with the exigency of modern science, the obligatory teaching of biology is added to our program of medical studies.

7.—Article 4938 which, without defining nor restricting the meaning of the words "to practise medicine", states more or less clearly however what constitutes illegal practise of medicine, has been the object of a lengthy preliminary study by the Legislation Committee, the Executive and our legal advisers. We have made it as plain as possible. We shall have to wait for the interpretation of the Courts and the judgments to come, before we are able to ascertain the practical value of our amendments.

8.—We have removed for foreign doctors having studied medicine five years, the obligation of an additional

year of study in our Province. Hereafter, the foreigner shall have only three essential obligations:

1.—Prove that he has studied medicine five years;

2.—Prove the equivalence of his titles;

3.—Pass the professional examination.

9.—We have made it a offense to practise medicine under another name than that of a lawfully authorized doctor, having in view the proprietor of a patent medicine who plays doctor.

10.—It is hereafter the duty of the Discipline Council to inquire, hear and decide, without interference of any tribunla, safe an appeal to the Provincial Board of Medicine, in the case of any accusation or complaint against a member of the College in respect to any failure to his professional duty or any other deed contrary to the honor or dignity of the profession.

"However, the law adds, should a member concerned believe that he has been unjustly treated by a decision of the Discipline Council or of the Provincial Board of Medicine, he may appeal to the Superior Court."

11.—The penalties for illegal practise of medicine remain unchanged. Only a conformity in penalties has been established.

12.—The law says specifically that the Registrar has the right to take proceedings in his own name for illegal practise.

Such is, Gentlemen Governors, the result of our efforts in legislative matters for the last four years.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

We have had to conform our By-laws to the new legislation. It has been done.

The By-laws, which will be submitted to your approval in a moment, have been carefully studied by your Legislation Committee, and you have received three months beforehand an official notice that they would be submitted to this meeting.

You have already approved, moreover, the most important part of these By-laws, relating to secret balloting. This amendment has been made. The next election will be held by secret balloting.

The part of the By-laws upon which the opinions of this Board differed, was that regarding charges and fees. We are pleased to declare that the tariff of our charges has remained practically the same. Only the cost of the federal certificate and of the federal license has been raised, and the premiums paid to unsuccessful candidates have been removed.

No additional tax whatever has been charged to the student nor the physician.

I have pleasure in declaring that, in the course of a lengthy discussion before the Canadian Medical Council, it has been clearly shown that it is in the Province of Quebec that the student and the physician pay the least for the education and the protection they receive.

I could not recall the task of the present Board without referring especially to the Discipline Council, to the eradication of illegal practise and to our finances.

THE DISCIPLINE COUNCIL

The Discipline Council sat only once in four years. The accused, who had been found guilty, appealed to the Superior Court. Unfortunately, he died even before the case was heard.

One must not weigh the importance of the Discipline Council according to that one case.

The Discipline Council sat only once in four years. of our internal administration. It is a sanction to our rights and a powerful help in the fulfilment of our duties.

I, as President, can testify that to recall the existence of the Discipline Council to a faulty member, is often sufficent to bring him back in the right path.

ILLEGAL PRACTICE

According to the recommendations made by a com-

mittee having among its members two ex-registrars, Drs. Marsolais and Boucher, the former Board and myself, the Registrar has been entrusted with the task to carefully inquire into all complaints made, sa as to appeal to the courts only when there is really a case.

With his well known talent as organizer, our Registrar has recruited detectives of good will which he sends where he wants at very slight cost, and whose reports are read and approved or rejected by the President. Experience shows that this method is much preferable to resorting to organized agencies.

The number of judgments obtained gives but a small idea of the number of inquiries made. Many cases that would be detrimental to the profession or to certain professional men are preferably and more satisfactorily settled by the discreet intervention of the Discipline Council. Others, being without foundation, are not proceeded with.

It is a well known fact that, since a year, the Courts, overcrowded with military matters, could not hear our complaints. We have presently over twenty cases outstanding.

During the year just ended, 19 cases judged or settled have brought to the administration $970, and 11 inquiries have cost $1,105.50.

The average cost of one inquiry has therefore been of $25.00.

The average proceed of each case settled has been of $51.05.

The cost of the inquiries and the proceeds of the actions taken since the beginning of the present administration have been calculated as follows:

	Cost of inquiries	Fines collected
1914-1915	$1,142.80	$1,537.85
1915-1916	758.00	1,333.65
1916-1917	640.00	718.00
1917-1918	1,105.50	970.00
	$3,646.30	$4,559.50

It has never been intended by the present Board, nor by the former to make profits out of the Inquiries Department; but this Department must not interfere with our budget.

One may pretend that we have been sometimes hesitating. But one must not forget that, before taking proceedings for illegal practise, many things have to be taken into account, namely the Medical Council of Canada, the Federal Act respecting Patent Medicine, the Provincial legislations and, above all, our own charter and By-laws, to say nothing of the charter and By-laws of institutions like ours.

Every physician knows that, before our interfering, a complaint signed by a responsible name must be delivered to the Registrar's office. It is not the Registrar's task to search for the guilty, but it is his duty to look into the facts when a written complaint is handed to him, unless for good reasons the President declares against proceeding. Such is the custom, and we believe it is right.

In spite of certain criticism, we wish to prove that, under our administration, llegal practise has been constantly pursued, from Gaspé to Labelle and from Lake St. John to Lancaster. The physicians residing in rural districts would, with very few exceptions, testify that our administration has done all that was in its power to succeed in this respect.

To substantiate this statement, I thought it would be interesting to annex to these remarks the complete list of those our Board has forced to pay fines during its administration.

FINES COLLECTED

1914 - 1918

1914

July 23.—Madame Beaudin, Ste-Luce .. .. ..$	50.00
July 23.—Madame O. Vallée, Grande-Rivière..	5.00
July 23.—Madame X. Moreau, Grande-Rivière	50.00
July 25.—Madame H. Philippe, St-Omer, Bon.	50.00
Aug. 5.—Madame Bourdon, Montreal	50.00
Dec. 15.—M. J.-A. Poirier, St-Polycarpe	5.00

Nov. 23.	—M. D. Ruel, Montmagny	50.00
Oct. 3.	—M. A. Lamothe, Québec	75.00
Dec. 4.	—M. D. Ruel, Montmagny	50.00
Dec. 15.	—M. J.-A. Poirier, St-Polycarpe	25.00
Dec. 19.	—M. Wm. Sparr, Montréal	60.00
1915		
Jan. 4.	—Madame Bourdon, Montréal	50.00
Jan. 4.	—Madame J. Gosselin, Montréal	100.00
Jan. 4.	—M. Beaumier, Montréal	50.00
Jan. 7.	—M. R. Speer, Danville	63.85
Jan. 18.	—M. J.-A. Poirier, St-Polycarpe.. ..	50.00
Jan. 28.	—M. O. Paquette St-Jovite	55.00
Feb. 25.	—M. R. Lévesque, Montreal	55.00
Mar. 1.	—M. L. DeLimbourg, Montreal..	50.00
Mar. 1.	—M. M. Gourde, D'Israëli	25.00
Mar. 1.	—M. O. Paquette, St-Jovite..	65.00
Mar. 8.	—Dr. Simon et Cie, Montreal	5.00
Mar. 11.	—Dr. Maroni et Cie, Montreal..	25.00
Mar. 16.	—M. Jeannotte, Montreal	50.00
April 1.	—Madame Pilon, Montreal	10.00
April 1.	—M. Geo. Downing, Frelighsburg.. ..	50.00
April 8.	—M. J. N. Brunet, St-Janvier	50.00
April 20.	—Madame Potvin, Montreal	26.00
May 1.	—Madame Gosselin, Montreal	100.00
June 2.	—M. H. Thuna, Montreal	30.00
June 7.	—M. H. Thuna, Montreal	15.00
June 7.	—M. J. N. Brunet, St-Janvier..	100.00
June 10.	—M. Jos. Roy, Ham Nord..	10.00
June 10.	—M. H. Thuna, Montréal..	13.00
July 8.	—M. J. C. Routhier..	28.00
July 13.	—M. J. B. Yosa, Montréal..	53.50
July 16.	—M. Emile Jeannotte..	50.00
Aug. 9.	—Madame Nazaire Moreau	50.00
Aug. 11.	—M. John Tull..	30.00
Aug. 21.	—M. C. M. Smith..	100.00
Sept. 3.	—Mrs. Troughton	20.00
Sept. 4.	—Madame Poulin, Montréal	50.00
Sept. 16.	—Madame Bohme, Montréal	50.00
Oct. 12.	—Mrs. Troughton	28.00
Oct. 16.	—M. Ernest-E. Locke	30.00

Oct. 18.	—Madame Boisvert, act.	10.00
Oct. 25.	—M. Ross	100.00
Oct. 25.	—Madame Gagnon	25.00
Nov. 2.	—M. H. Blanchette	50.00
Nov. 18.	—M. J.-N. Brunet, St-Janvier	50.00
Déc. 1.	—Madame Boisvert, act.	10.00
Déc. 2.	—M. J.-P.-E. Gamache	50.00
Déc. 16.	—M. G.-B. Yosa, Mnotréal..	100.00
1916		
Jan. 20.	—Madame Orléans, Montréal	10.00
Jan. 24.	—M. J.-B. Fortin, Montréal	25.00
Feb. 2.	—M. Aimé Poirier, St-Polycarpe.. ..	7.50
Feb. 17.	—M. Aimé Poirier, St-Polycarpe	25.00
Feb. 17.	—Madame Boisvert, act.	10.00
Mar. 1.	—M. Aimé Poirier, St-Polycarpe.. ..	17.50
Mar. 6.	—M. J. B. Fortin, Montr al..	50.00
Mar. 20.	—Madame Boisvert, balance..	10.00
April 5.	—M. J. P. E. Gamache, Pont-Rouge ..	11.15
April 18.	—M. J. N. Brunet, St-Janvier..	50.00
April 18.	—Madame Cousineau, Montreal .. .	50.00
May 16.	—M. Tremblay, 3 amendes..	150.00
June 13.	—M. Beaudoin, act.	10.00
June 17.	—M. D. Aragon	20.00
June 19.	—M. Beaudoin, act.	5.00
July 11.	—Madame O. Lacroix	15.00
Aug. 2.	—M. J. M. Beaudoin, act.	5.00
Sept. 4.	—M. O.-A. Jutras	8.00
Sept. 19.	—M. J.-M. Beaudoin, act.	5.00
Oct. 16.	—M. Sadik Bey	50.00
Oct. 27.	—M. J.-M. Beaudoin	5.00
Oct. 30.	—Madame Charette	50.00
Nov. 13.	—M. J.-M. Beaudoin, bal.	5.00
Nov. 23.	—Madame Caron	25.00
Dec. 2.	—M. J. Ross	100.00
1917		
Jan. 4.	—M. St-Germain	10.00
Feb. 15.	—M. J. Dragon	50.00
April 5.	—M. J. B. Fortin, Montreal	100.00
April 9.	—M. J. N. Brunet, St-Janvier	100.00
April 14.	—Madame Thériault	50.00

June 1.	M. DeSutter, Montreal	50.00
June 12.	Mrs. Célina Ross	50.00
June 16.	M. J. Stockman, Montrea	10.00
July 13.	Madame Pelletier, Kamouraska	20.11
July 14.	M. France Valcourt, Rimouski	100.00
July 29.	M. H. S. Peabody, Ormstown	50.00
Aug. 3.	M. L. Lavigne, Montreal	25.00
Aug. 6.	M. A. Gagné, Ham Nord	50.00
Dec. 3.	Mrs. S. Franklin, Montreal	50.00
Dec. 17.	Mrs. E. Freedman, Montreal	50.00
Dec. 19.	M. Wm. Murray Leys, Montréal	100.00
Dec. 20.	Mrs. R. Troughton, Montreal	50.00
Dec. 20.	Madame R. Troughton, Montréal	50.00
Dec. 22.	M. A.-G. Porro, Montréal	50.00
Dec. 26.	M. D.-D. Lewis, Montréal	50.00
1918		
Jan. 3.	M. Wm. Clark, Montréal	50.00
Feb. 22.	M. J. N. Brunet, St-Janvier	100.00
April 2.	M. Henri Perron, Montreal	50.00
April 2.	M. L. F. W. Penny, Montreal	25.00
May 8.	Madame Pinault Proulx, Montreal	10.00
June 1.	M. Lafrance, Montreal	50.00
June 12.	M. Aimé Poirier, St-Polycarpe	10.00
June 26.	M. Arthur Gagné, Ham Nord	50.00
Total amount of fines collected	$4,559.50	
Cost of inquiries	3,646.30	
Surplus of fines collected		$ 913.20

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

From July 1st, 1917, to July 1st, 1918.

RECEIPTS.

Fines	$ 970.00
Bachelors registered	2,675.00
Contributions	8,277.10
Preliminary examinations	1,737.50
Registration and soundry (certificates, registers, etc.)	170.10

Interest	3.40
Licenses	4,100.00
	$17,933.40
Balance on hand July 1st, 1917	**3,249.31**

EXPENSES.

Furniture, including typewriter	$ 329.10
Grant to the President	400.00
Committees' Expenses	316.00
Preliminary examinations (remittances)	150.00
Salaries: Registrar	3,000.00
Assistant	810.00
Governors' travelling expenses	1,442.55
Legal expenses	903.00
General expenses	3,436.52
Inquiries expenses	1,105.50
Governors' fees	890.00
Examiners' fees	2,419.00
Licenses (remittances)	110.00
	$15,311.67
Balance July 1st, 1918	5,871.04
	$21,182.71

GENERAL EXPENSES.

Advertising, papers, magazines	$ 266.09
Assurance	42.00
Exchange and collection	33.95
Grants and charity	155.00
Washing	11.00
Printing	609.67
Rent	600.00
Lighting	8.50
Stationery and office furniture	239.66
Taxes	66.93
Telephone and telegraph	166.70
Stamps	417.02
Translation	300.00

Auditing	200.00
Subscription and delegation expenses (delegate to Chicago, etc.)	256.00
Comm. et al.	55.00
Office cleaning	9.00
	$ 3,136.52

SUMMARY.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenses.
1914-1915	$13,921.19	$17,531.04
1915-1916	13,592.32	13,150.75
1916-1917	13,859.70	14,523.39
1917-1918	17,933.40	15,311.67

We have postponed for four years our appearing before the Legislature, awaiting the moment our finances would allow us to do so, and fearing the heavy expense it entails.

Our experience of 1909, which was severe, has been useful to us, as you will notice by the prosperity of our fir ces to-day.

The year 1917-1918 shows an excess of receipts over expenses of $2,621.73.

On July 1st, 1918, all our expenses are paid up to date and our Auditor finds an amount of $5,871.04 on hand.

The former Board has had the great merit of removing the onerous system of special commissions.

One will no doubt recognize that the present Boa has reduced beyond all hopes the legal expenses.

The amount of $903.00 for legal expenses includes all the incidental expenses on our cases and the total fees paid to the legal advisers who have revised our legislation and represented us before the Legislation Committee, the Provincial Legislature and the Legislative Council.

THE ADOPTION OF THE LAW OF 1918 HAS COST LESS THAN $600.

You will notice with pleasure that the number of our students, though it is not yet what it was in 1910, has greatly increased.

By the law of 1909, we had set down the curriculum at five years. There was thus a year during which no student graduated, and the study of medicine was much abandoned. But the law being accepted, and the war helping, many young men now come back to us.

You will observe that the annual contributions of our members amount to $8,277.40. It is, so to speak, an abnormal collection, since the total number of physicians in good standing, 1919, should they all pay their dues, would only contribute $7,796. Let us add to this the fact that we have remitted contributions amounting to nearly $900 to physicians on active service and to doctors in need.

This state of affairs proves that the physicians of this Province take great interest in the welfare of this profession. It also proves that the College is well managed and that good care is taken that arrears are paid.

It is only fair to officially recognize the competency and ableness as administrator of our Registrar, who has always shown such a deep devotedness to our institution.

I must add, to do justice to his secretary, Miss Paradis, the testimony of Mr. Gonthier, the Auditor, who states in his report, which is submitted to you, that the books are very carefully kept.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

Our connections with the Medical Council of Canada are permanently established upon what we consider just and equitable bases. Last year, as you are aware, your representatives, together with the University representatives of this Province, have had the Federal Council state the definite conditions at which the student from Quebec,

bearer of a degree of doctor in medicine, can be a candidate to the federal license.

These conditions are contained in the minutes of the meeting of July, 1917. They can be summarized thus:

"Any student from the Province of Quebec, bearer of a University degree of this Province, can be a candidate to the federal license":

"1.—If he is the bearer of a Provincial license;

"2.—Or if he is the bearer of a certificate from the Registrar of the Province of Quebec, stating that he has fulfilled all the conditions required for the license. Provincial autonomy is thus safeguarded".

OUR WORKS

It is the first time that we dare speak of our works in a special chapter. Always absorbed by the heavy task of the administration of the College of Physicians, we had not been able so far to make such notable works as money can accomplish.

This year, we have to mention our subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund and to Laval Military Hospital, now at Joinville-le-Pont, in France.

We have pleasure of informing you that, under the item of contributions remitted, the College has subscribed over $2,000 to the War, since 1914.

Our successors will be free to pay, if they deem it advisable, the subscriptions promised to the Patriotic Fund and to Laval Military Hospital.

Each appeal that has been made to you on behalf of a doctor in need, has been heard.

The Registrar, authorized by us or from his own initiative, has always helped those who were seeking help.

In recalling the memory of a faithful servant, Miss Chartrand, on whose tomb a floral tribute was placed in the name of the College, you can rest assured that you have done the proper thing in paying to this disabled young lady her regular salary during fourteen months and in voting her afterwards a substantial bonus.

But we must admit that, so far, we were authorized to do so neither by our revenue nor by the law. We have had our past generosity legalized and we leave it to our successors to establish for the future, legally and according to our financial position, a special fund for our works and for the poor, with one half of the surplus of our current receipts over our expenses.

CONSCRIPTION

The Order in Council of the Canadian Government calling to the colors young men of from 19 to 23 years old, without privilege guaranteed to students in their first year, has taken us, as everybody else, by surprise.

The Executive of this College, has shared the views of Laval University of Quebec who in order to supply the Government, as rapidly as possible, with the doctors he was in need of, and to accelerate the curriculum of medical studies, has decided to give in twelve months all the lessons which were formerly given in 24.—which was only feasible by the suppression of all annual vacation and ordinary holidays.

In this brief review, we believe we have summarized the main acts accomplished by this Board.

In my capacity as President, I have pleasure to recognize the able and effective co-operation of all my colleagues, w..om I cordially thank for the honor they have done me.

Dr Arthur SIMARD

President of the College of Physician and Surgeon of the Province of Quebec.